

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are currently pending. Claims 47-50 have been added. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 7-13 and 30-36 contain allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has given several reasons for the indication that claims 7-13 and 30-36 contain allowable subject matter. The Applicant would like to point out that each of the reasons given by the Examiner, alone would define the claims over the prior art of record. As such, their combination is unnecessary for patentability. In addition, there are other reasons for allowance not specifically stated by the Examiner. As such, the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter given by the Examiner should not be considered an exhaustive list of the patentable features recited by those claims. Rather, the reasons should be considered exemplary of some of the patentable features of the claims.

Claim 23 has been amended to correct a typographical error and the second claim 26 has been renumbered as claim 28.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 14-22, 24-29, and 37-46 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stob (U.S. Patent No. 4,991,070).

Amended claim 1 defines a lighting device comprising a linear light source having a longitudinal axis, a first end, and a second end defining a light-emitting length therebetween. A translucent region is positioned substantially intermediate said first and said second ends and has a length substantially less than the light-emitting length. A reflective member includes an axis substantially coincident with said longitudinal axis. The reflective member is positioned to direct light emitted from a substantial portion of said linear light source toward said translucent region.

Stob does not teach or suggest a lighting device that includes, among other things, a translucent region having a length substantially less than the light-emitting length. Rather, Stob teaches a light emitting device that includes a light-emitting element 26, a reflective substrate 36 and an outer tube 12 that defines a lens 20 through which light is emitted. Stob teaches nothing regarding the length of the lens (translucent portion) as it relates to the light-emitting length. Stob does teach the use of an extruded outer tube 12, thus indicating that the lens portion is as long as the tube 12. As such, the translucent portion of Stob has a length similar to the length of the light-emitting element 26.

For these and other reasons, Stob fails to teach or suggest the subject matter defined by claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Dependent claims 2-6, 14-22, and 47-48 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Amended claim 24 defines a lighting device including a linear light source having a first end and a second end. A translucent region is positioned substantially intermediate said first and said second ends. The translucent region completely surrounds a portion of the linear light source. The lighting device also includes means for directing light emitted from said linear light source toward said translucent region. The directing means having a common longitudinal axis with said linear light source.

Stob does not teach or suggest a lighting device that includes, among other things, a translucent region that completely surrounds a portion of the linear light source. Rather, Stob teaches a tube 12 that defines a lens 20 (translucent portion) that extends the full length of the linear light source but only partially surrounds any portion of the linear light source.

For these and other reasons, Stob fails to teach or suggest the subject matter defined by claim 24. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 24 is allowable. Dependent claims 25-29, 37-46, and 49-50 depend from independent claim 24 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and allowance of claims 1-50.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. F. Laska' with a stylized flourish at the end.

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